

Goodwin's Weekly

Vol. 27

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, DECEMBER 23, 1916

No. 24

*An Independent Paper Published Under
the Management of T. L. Holman ::*

EDITORIALS BY JUDGE C. C. GOODWIN

An Announcement

BEGINNING with this issue, Theodore L. Holman assumes the management and will direct the policy of this publication. Judge C. C. Goodwin will continue to contribute to the editorial columns, and for the time being James T. Goodwin will be associated with the Weekly in an editorial capacity.

Christmas Eve, Then And Now

WHAT must the first Christmas eve have been like? We cannot conceive how ignorant the masses of the men of Palestine were. The few priests could read, what the masses knew was what the priests read to them, and the legends that had been transmitted from father to son from the days of Moses down.

But from these they grew up in the belief that they were God's chosen people and most of them looked upon David and Solomon as ancestors, and the belief was fixed that a Savior was to be sent them.

What thrills there must have been in the air! How the hearts of men must have been stirred!

We can believe that the new star came for astronomers have found out and located that star and can now calculate when it shone in the past and when it may be looked for in future. And if there is aught of truth in the Christian faith, the other phenomena of that night as told in the New Testament was but natural, for heaven and earth were stirred as never before. It was an event to fill the ether with the songs of Peace, to waken the sons of God to joyous acclaim; to set in accord the axes of all the planets and suns that roll in space.

The music that sounds the carols of the modern Christmas eve is but an echo of what was heard on that night. This year there is unusual solemnity in those echoes. More than half the civilized world is at war; the thunder of their cannon jars the world and distracts every song of peace and god will to man.

Those who believe that Omnipotence directs the destinies of nations cannot, as yet, see the object of this mighty tragedy, and men grope in the darkness and ask in vain for the reason.

And this unrest jars upon the carols that should be sung on Christmas eve, breaks in upon the thoughts of the devout, and fills with doubts the hearts of millions, doubts that if much longer held will shatter the hopes and faith of millions.

Christmas Week

CHRISTMAS week should be a joyous week in Salt Lake. Eggs and butter and beefsteaks are high, but the movies are cheap and so are flannel haddies and one can make a long march when supported under the belt by flannel haddies. The shows are all in full blast. At this writing the

coasting is superb; the air is crisp and boys are learning that the boy with the fastest sled always gets the prettiest girls for partners.

The secret lies in the wages paid the workers and the dividends paid the capitalists, so that almost everybody has money. And the real Christmas gift carries more joy to the giver than the receiver, and when the air is filled with the joy of both giver and receiver, the very atmosphere becomes glad and hence the benediction that is upon Christmas week. The Christmas carols are in the air, so are the stately anthems; so are the ringing bells, and heaven bends down nearer to earth than at any other time, and it is as when on that day "the gods walked free with men, though men knew not; for heaven was filled with gladness for earth's sake," and the bright ones come singing a song of praise.

And because of Christmas week the whole coming year should be the gladder, for all its influences are high and it is filled with signs that mankind is growing better, more generous, more unselfish, more considerate of each other and that earth and heaven are drawing nearer each other.

To Prepare For The World's Peace

WE still think that our country is losing prestige by not leading in calling a conference of the neutral nations to consider proposals for insuring the future peace of the world and indirectly to bring a pressure to influence the nations now at war in the direction of peace.

We cannot understand why there should be any debate over the rights of neutrals in this connection. A neutral means simply that he shall not favor one belligerent at the expense or to the disadvantage of the other. That does not imply that a neutral shall surrender any inherent rights. Two men engage in a fight on the street. There is no question about the right of outsiders to separate them, and if it is plain that both have on a fighting drunk, there is no question about the right of the police to put them in the cooler until they recover their normal condition.

And if this is repeated too often, the authority goes further and the place where they get the fire-water is closed.

The reports are that Russia does not desire to consider any peace proposals until the arm of Germany shall be broken. But all the time "by the Danube and the Dnieper the Cossack hero sleeps; by the Volga and the Don the Cossack mother weeps," and this mighty drain of human life must stop sometime.

Great Britain is reported in much the same mood as Russia, but there are a million of Rachels in England, Scotland and Ireland, in Canada and Australia who are "weeping for their children because they are not," and that must be stopped sometime.

Then the talk of wiping out a great nation is buncombe. The integrity of Germany is not yet broken, we do not think it is as yet jeopardized.

She has failed in her western offensive, but her guns are still thundering almost in hearing of Paris, and she seems to be winning on the eastern front, while the defense she can put up

between the west front and Berlin must have a discouraging look to the allies.

If a convention of neutrals could incorporate a code forbidding offensive and defensive alliances between nations, but placing all nations in alliance to punish any nation that went to war without approval of a world tribunal after hearing of a grievance, even the nations now at war might accept that proposition in favor of a universal and lasting peace.

With that adopted there would be no objection to Russian ships passing to and fro through the Hellespont; there would be an open field for trade to all nations; there would be no further anxiety on the part of any nation to add to her navy, for what would it avail?

On this line a neutral convention could work to place international affairs on a new basis, behind which would be a well-founded hope of permanent peace to the world.

Imagine such a code in practical working. The United States could lay the facts relating to Mexican affairs before this tribunal. That tribunal could cite the authorities of Mexico to appear and show cause why all the nations should not declare their country a menace to the world's peace and an unmitigated nuisance to the Mexican people themselves and give them notice that they must arrange matters on a sensible basis within a prescribed time, or be held as an outcast among the nations of the earth, to be boycotted in trade and to be held as an enemy by all the peoples of the earth.

There is no set of men, no matter how intent they may be upon running revolutions that could face that situation.

It is time for a new deal and to make clear the fact that at last the whole people of the world are to have their say in the management of the world's affairs.

Our Generals' Advise

GENERALS WOOD and Scott want a great army and navy for the United States. From a military view that is altogether natural and wise, and trying to peer into the future through the light that the past sheds upon the world, congress should respond to the demand.

It will not do to lull ourselves into the belief that war between our country and Great Britain is unthinkable. Great Britain has made her money in trade and by the conquest of the unoccupied lands of the earth and of India, she has been in alliance with Japan since the Japanese-Russian war. Nothing is plainer than that Russia and Japan have begun the absorption of eastern Asia. They already control Manchuria and Mongolia, and since the great present war began Japan has wrung from China concessions which virtually make her a subject nation to Japan. We should be blind to imagine that, if China is to be partitioned, Great Britain will not insist upon her portion of it. Japan affects warm friendship for the United States, but whenever any of her public men give expression of that friendship they couple with it the hope that the United States will soon extend to Japan the perfect equality which we give to the European nations when they land